

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 SP-02 L-02 INR-07 PRS-01

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R 150715Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3421

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0930

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PL
SUBJECT: POLISH REPRESENTATION ON LABELING OF ORBIS MATERIALS

REF: A. STATE 032455; B. STATE 024417

1. MFA OFFICIALS IN PAST THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS HAVE APPROACHED THE PRESS AND CULTURAL COUNSELOR TO EXPRESS THE MFA'S CONCERN REGARDING THE ORBIS TOURIST MATERIALS BEING WITHHELD FROM DISTRIBUTION BY THE JUSTICE DEPT. PAWLISZEWSKI, VICE DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT THREE, SAID ON FEBRUARY 1 THAT THE MFA FELT STRONGLY THAT ANY EXPLANATIONS OF JUSTICE'S ACTION SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE POLISH EMBASSY VIA THE DEPARTMENT AND NOT THROUGH ORBIS/JUSTICE CONTACTS. PAWLISZEWSKI ALSO STATED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD RAISED THE ISSUE AT THE DEPARTMENT AND, THEREFORE, EXPECTED THE MATTER TO BE HANDLED THERE AS AN "EXTREMELY SENSITIVE POLITICAL MATTER WHICH COULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE REPERCUSSIONS," IF NOT RESOLVED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MFA WISHED TO KEEP ITS REPRESENTATIONS LOW-KEY. HE STATED THE PREVENTION OF DISTRIBUTION OF POLISH PUBLICATIONS IN THE U.S. COULD "CREATE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN POLAND IF THE PROBLEM WERE SEIZED UPON BY OTHER, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME."

2. THE NEXT DAY, PAWLISZEWSKI ATTENDED THE KOSCIUSZKO
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WREATHLAYING CEREMONY AT WARSAW UNIVERSITY AND ONCE

AGAIN RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE BROCHURES. HE REJECTED THE SUGGESTION THAT ORBIS LAWYERS OR POLISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS MEET WITH JUSTICE (AS RECOMMENDED IN REFTEL B) AND REPEATED THE MFA'S POSITION THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS THE ONLY ENTITY WITH WHICH THEY INTENDED TO COMMUNICATE ON THE MATTER.

3. ON FEBRUARY 13, WOJTOWICZ OF DEPARTMENT III REITERATED PAWLISZEWSKI

ARGUMENTS AND THE MFA'S CONCERN DURING AN EMBASSY RECEPTION. WOJTOWICZ SAID AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI HAD BEEN "SEVERELY CRITICIZED" WITHIN THE MFA FOR TAKING TOO SOFT A LINE ON THE ISSUE. TRAMPCZYNSKI, HE CLAIMED, WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO ADOPT A RIGID POSITION WHICH WOULD: 1) REQUIRE HIM TO REJECT THE JUSTICE DEPT'S CONTENTION THAT THE ORBIS TRAVEL MATERIAL WAS PROPAGANDA AND 2) REJECT THE SUGGESTION THAT THE POLISH EMBASSY OR ORBIS DEAL DIRECTLY WITH JUSTICE. AT THIS POINT, WOJTOWICZ WAS TOLD THAT JUSTICE WOULD BE INFORMING ORBIS OF THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE THREE BROCHURES IN QUESTION. WOJTOWICZ WAS ALMOST ECSTATIC UPON HEARING THIS AND DURING THE COURSE OF THE EVENING THANKED THE PRESS AND CULTURAL COUNSELOR AT LEAST FOUR TIMES FOR THE "GOOD NEWS." WHEN LEAVING THE RECEPTION, HE REEMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE THE MFA ATTACHED TO THE MATTER.

COMMENT: WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THE POSITIVE ACTION BY JUSTICE HAS PREVENTED A POTENTIALLY STICKY MATTER FROM DEVELOPING INTO A CAUSE CELEBRE. IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE STATEMENTS OF MFA OFFICIALS THAT RETALIATORY ACTION WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN TAKEN AGAINST EMBASSY-DISTRIBUTED PUBLICATIONS, WHICH ARE FREELY MAILED THROUGHOUT POLAND IN THE THOUSANDS. OF GREATEST SENSITIVITY WAS JUSTICE'S CONTENTION THAT THE ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL ON WARTIME DESTRUCTION IN POLAND WAS UNACCEPTABLE (PAWLISZEWSKI SAID THE MFA CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE THREE ITEMS HELD UP BY JUSTICE AND COULDNOT UNDERSTAND HOW " A MONUMENT AT WESTERPLATTE COMMEMORATING THE DEAD" COULD BE CONSIDERED PROPAGANDA

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OR OBJECTIONABLE). NEITHER PAWLISZEWSKI NOR WOJTOWICZ WAS INFORMED OF THE JUSTICE POLICY DECISION (AS REQUESTED IN PARA THREE, REFTEL A).

4. REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT APPRISE USIA OF THE ABOVE SINCE THE MFA RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR KOPP DURING HIS VISIT TO WARSAW LAST MONTH.

DAVIES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABELING, PROPAGANDA, TOURISM, PUBLICATIONS, SECURITY CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975WARSAW00930
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750055-0962
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750237/aaaabhud.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: A. STATE 032455; B. STATE 024417
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLISH REPRESENTATION ON LABELING OF ORBIS MATERIALS
TAGS: PFOR, PL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006